

MINUTES
BENTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

A meeting of the Benton County Disability Advisory Committee was held at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, in the WSU Co-op Extension Meeting Room, 5600 W Canal Dr, Kennewick. Present from the Benton County Auditor's Office were Bobbie Gagner, Auditor; Susie Christopher, Election Administrator; and Stuart Holmes, Election Specialist. Also present were committee members Rick Towne, member of People First and Bernie Vinther.

Rick explained that his group advocates benefits of disabled people, over in Olympia once a year. In addition to going to Olympia, People First group works year round on benefits also.

Bobbie explained that we must meet at least once a year and she was willing to meet more often, if needed. She read the plan that we adopted for Benton County last December and asked if there were any suggestions from members. Bernie Vinther asked what the HAVA acronym meant and Bobbie explained that it stands for Help America Vote Act. Bobbie then explained that HAVA is what enabled us to purchase our voting equipment and the HART voting system and that we would be updating our Disability Advisory Committee plan so that there would be no more confusions with HAVA. Rick asked about getting a fourth poll site in the Paterson-Plymouth area. Bobbie asked if Rick knew of concerns in the area and he stated no, was just wondering. Bobbie explained that we would like to have a mobile access unit available in the future but had to get some legislation passed first.

Bernie would like to see a new location in place of the Kennewick office. He suggested the Three Rivers Transit Center, as the Kennewick office is not bus friendly. Bobbie stated that there was a bus stop on Canal in front of the office that the Juvenile Justice people use all the time. Bernie stated he was not aware of the bus stop and would have to check into the routes and be trained to get from the bus stop to the office door. Susie suggested that our office look into the bus routes and what procedure we could find from the Ben-Franklin Transit. Stuart would look into this and get back to Bernie. Stuart will bring something to the next meeting as well.

Bobbie said Bernie had left her a voice message regarding information on what other vendors were providing for units. She explained that there were four vendors certified in Washington State as follows:

Diebold located in King and Klickitat counties

ES&S Auto Mark located in Adams, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Pend Orielle, Spokane, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla and Whitman counties

Hart located in Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallum, Clark, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Island, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Stevens, and Yakima counties

Sequoia located in Franklin, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties

Bernie was interested in who made the decision for Benton County that we would purchase the Hart system. Bobbie explained the process we went through prior to deciding on the Hart system. Bernie would like to see other vendors equipment. He is an inventor and feels that all equipment needs improvement. Bobbie suggested that he contact counties that had other vendors and see about using a demo unit. Bernie would look into that.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.